



Australian Bureau of Statistics

1003.0 - ABS News for Libraries (Issue No. 59), Feb 2007

Previous ISSUE Released at 11:30 AM (CANBERRA TIME) 26/03/2007

Summary

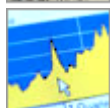
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Census

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In this Issue



IN THIS ISSUE

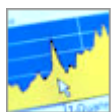
This is our first newsletter for 2007. Late last year we consulted our readers about changing the newsletter format, and the overwhelming response was 'stop the hardcopy'. At the same time we wanted to produce a newsletter that serviced our growing client base (and welcome to our new readers!).

Why the change? Free Statistics on the Web brought about a lot of changes for the ABS. In particular, the Library Extension Program (LEP) saw an opportunity to broaden our horizons and bring web site training and support to libraries in all sectors - public, tertiary and special. Now libraries across Australia can enjoy the benefits of our award-winning outreach program. Our new broader title is now Information Skills Program (ISP), within which LEP now operates.

This newsletter now reflects the growing diversity of our client base (which has expanded to include government and special libraries), and as a result there are sections of the newsletter with news relevant to each library type, as well as general articles of national interest. Sit back and enjoy the latest news on the web site, census, training news and latest releases.

Michael Janssen-Gibson
National Manager

Netnews



NETNEWS

What's New on the ABS Web Site?

Some of the recent developments on the ABS web site include:

- a) New Animated Population Pyramids for the States and Territories; and
- b) ABS in the media using Google News facilities.

New Animated Population Pyramids:

A population pyramid is a graph showing the age structure and sex distribution of a population. It is a useful tool in revealing information about a population's history and future possibilities. Animated population pyramids show the change of population distribution over time. New animated population pyramids for all States and Territories were launched on the ABS website on 13 December 2006.

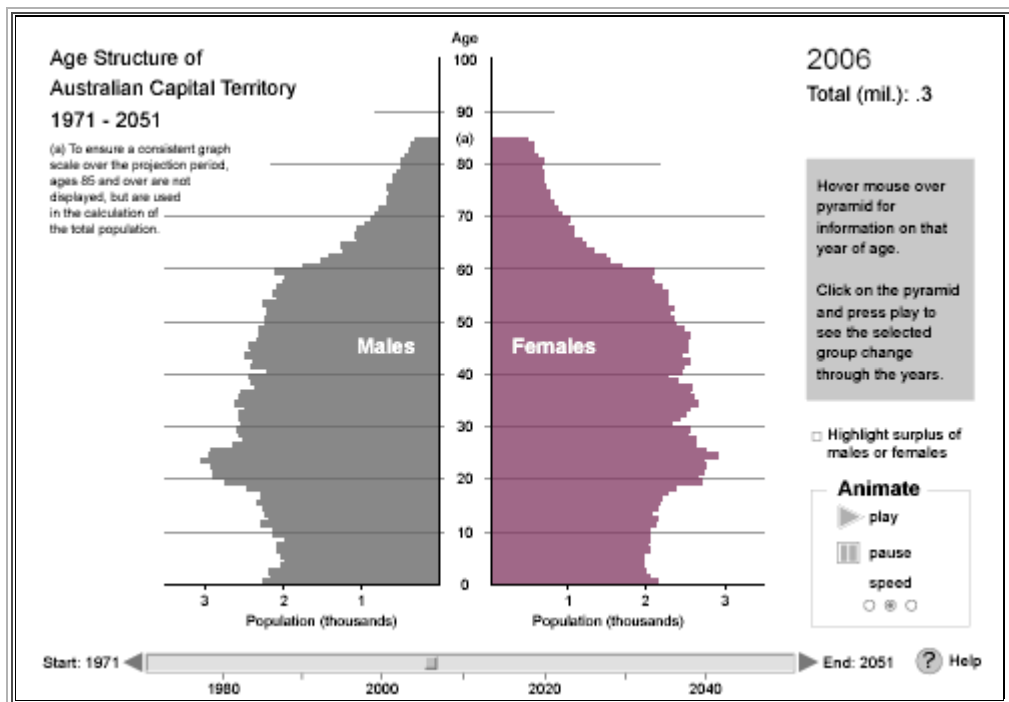


Fig. 1. An example of an Animated Population Pyramid (Illustrated: Australian Capital Territory pyramid)

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ABS in the media:

The ABS web site now has a customised Google News Search. It now displays a web page showing references to the ABS in news articles.

[Trade statistics show cautious consumer spending: Economists](#)
 WA Business News (subscription), Australia - 3 hours ago
 Retail trade rose to a seasonally adjusted \$18.62 billion from a downwardly revised \$17.47 billion in December, the **Australian Bureau of Statistics** said. ...


 [Higher rates fail to dampen spending](#)
 The Age, Australia - 2 hours ago
 Shoppers spent a seasonally adjusted \$18.6 billion in January, according to data released by the **Australian Bureau of Statistics** (ABS) today, a 0.9 per cent ...
[Imports add to current account deficit](#) NEWS.com.au
[Current account deficit rises to \\$15b](#) Sydney Morning Herald
[all 57 news articles »](#)

Fig. 2. An example of ABS in the Media using Google News

If you would like to provide your feedback on the ABS web site or for more information please contact me at mark.gore@abs.gov.au

Mark Gore
 ABS Statistical Publishing Development

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Feature article



FEATURE ARTICLE

2007 Year Book Australia out Now!

As ever, the Year Book is a user-friendly publication that can be the starting point in answering a myriad of queries that come across your library's reference desk. Don't forget the 2007 Year Book along with earlier editions is available free in full text in the 'Statistics' section of the ABS home page. The Year Book can help all sorts of library clients. School students will find it full of well presented accessible information whilst researchers appreciate it as an introduction to Australian statistics.

As the principal reference work published by the ABS, it provides an excellent overview of the statistics that we gather. The Year Book also contains background information about the statistics to enable them to be put into a readily understandable context. Descriptive information about various aspects of Australia, such as the environment, government and health and welfare systems are also included.

As this year is the 100th anniversary of volunteer surf lifesaving in Australia, one of the main feature articles of the Year Book celebrates this icon of Australian culture. The other main article, on Australians in Antarctica, includes fascinating information about Antarctica's history and Australia's contribution.

Other articles address issues on the Antarctic theme such as Antarctic tourism and Fishing in Australia's Antarctic waters. There are also articles about matters such as retirement and retirement intentions and life satisfaction and measures of progress.

Year Book Australia 2007 provides a great starting point for answering many questions from students and researchers.

Tip: to access previous editions of the Year Book (or any ABS publication) on the web, click the Past & Future Releases tab.

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ABS at Information Online 2007

Over 1000 delegates from all over Australia and New Zealand attended the Information Online 2007 Conference, held at Darling Harbour in Sydney from 30 January to 1 February. Large numbers also visited the ABS exhibition stand, taking the opportunity to talk with ABS staff about ABS data and services. The ABS also ran a product session on 'Census: a taste of what's to come' which gave attendees a view of upcoming Census 2006 products, including CData, which will replace CLIB and be available free online.

It was a great experience to meet and talk with library and information professionals from all types of libraries, and thank you to all who visited the ABS stand and gave us valuable feedback.



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Census



CENSUS

During the lead-up to the 2006 census data release scheduled for July, we are committed to bringing you the latest news and developments. Census Update 41 has just been released. Here are some of the content highlights:

New 2006 Census Web Products

Available Now:

- QuickMaps with 2001 data - QuickMaps are designed to provide users with quick and easy access to thematically mapped Census statistics using 2001 data. The maps are available for larger geographies and depict selected population, ethnicity, education, family, income, labour force and dwelling characteristics.

Forthcoming

- CData Online - combines comprehensive information on Australian society from the 2006 Census, with powerful web mapping application software.
- SEIFA (Socio-Economic Indexes For Areas) - developed especially for those interested in the assessment of the welfare of Australian communities.
- Table Builder - allows users to construct their own tables via an interactive web interface, using a database containing the 2006 Census Unit Record File

Census Data Processing Centre

In an otherwise unremarkable office building in the heart of the Melbourne CBD, over 800

people are currently hard at work producing the best quality Census data ever.

Census Information Sessions

The 2006 Census user information sessions proved to be extremely popular, and further sessions are being conducted by the ABS' State Offices in regional centres in early 2007.

Sign up to receive Census Update, an electronic newsletter with the latest Census news and information, by emailing census.users@abs.gov.au and typing in "add to Census email" in the subject field. You can opt out at any time.

Shortcuts - Regional data



SHORTCUTS

How do I find the population of a region?

The ABS uses 3 main measures to count population in Australia.

It's important to understand the differences between them in order to find the right population figures for your purpose.

Population counts are produced by:

1. The Census of Population and Housing
2. Estimated Resident Populations (ERPs)
3. Population projections

Estimated Resident Populations (ERPs) are where you find **official** population estimates.

What are ERPs?

- ERPs are derived from 5 yearly census counts, but are issued quarterly to provide up-to-date totals of the population of Australia, States and Territories.
- Estimates are based on census counts by place of usual residence, to which are added the estimated net census undercount and Australian residents estimated to have been temporarily overseas at the time of the census. Overseas visitors are excluded.
- ERPs include calculations of natural increase from births and deaths data, overseas migration data from the Department of Immigration and Citizenship; and interstate migration data from Medicare Australia.
- This means that ERP data is more accurate and up-to-date than census data.

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Where do I find ERP data?

- Australian Demographic Statistics (cat. no. 3101.0)
- Population by Age and Sex, Australian States & Territories (cat. no. 3201.0)
- Regional Population Growth, Australia, 2005-06 (cat. no. 3218.0)

Which regions have ERPs available?

- Australia, States and Territories (quarterly)
- Capital Cities, Major Regions and Statistical Divisions, Subdivisions and Districts (annual)
- Local Government Areas (LGAs) and Statistical Local Areas (SLAs) (annual)

How are ERPs used?

- ERPs are used to determine the number of seats allocated to each state and territory in the House of Representatives; to decide how Commonwealth government tax revenues are distributed among the states, and for many other purposes.

Census data

Collected every 5 years, the Census of Population and Housing is a snapshot of everyone in Australia on census night, including overseas visitors. Census data is useful for finding:

- comprehensive population data cross-classified by a wide range of socio-economic characteristics.
- very small geographic area population data, including areas as small as a few streets (an area known as a Collection District, covering about 200 dwellings).
- able to select population data by Usual Resident Population or Location on Census night.

[Census home page](#)

Population projections

Population projections are published every two to three years to enable forward planning by Commonwealth and State government agencies.

- Population clock provides up-to-the-minute population projection for Australia.
- Population Projections, Australia, 2004-2101 (cat. no. 3222.0) provides projections for Australia, states, territories, capital city/balances of state by age and sex.
- Animated Population Pyramids provides a moving diagram illustrating the changing age and sex structure of each State, Territory and Australia combining a historical time series of ERPs and population projections into the future.
- Experimental Estimates and Projections, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Australians, 1991-2009 (cat. no. 3238.0)
- Household and Family Projections, Australia, 2001-2026 (cat. no. 3236.0)

More information:

Demographic Estimates and Projections: Concepts, Sources and Methods, 1999 (cat. no. 3228.0) Chapter 1. Population estimates - an overview

[ABS web site Demography Theme page](#)

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Special Libraries



SPECIAL LIBRARIES

Training news

Since expanding our program of training and support to librarians and information professionals across all sectors, the Information Skills Program has been liaising with many different organisations around the country. These have included finance libraries, health libraries, Commonwealth, State and Local government libraries, government agency learning and development areas, and many other areas.

The following are a few of the organisations that have benefited from our training and information sessions: KMPG in Victoria and NSW; the Department of Local Government in Nowra, the NSW Department of Environment, Utility and Sustainability, NSW Government Business Education Network; the Australian Customs Service, Treasury, Australian National Audit Office, Australian Electoral Commission, Attorney-General's Department, & Australian Public Service Commission in the ACT, as well as Qld Health Epidemiologists, Qld Transport, Tourism and Local Government, Qld Spatial Information Council, Community Information South Australia, and many others.

If you are interested in discussing your ABS information needs with us contact the ISP National Manager.

With the upcoming release of Census 2006 data, Census information sessions for ISP clients are being planned in each state and territory. Check the Census web pages for further information over the next few months.

How to use a shorter URL for ABS products

Would you like to be able to refer to ABS products through a meaningful URL (Uniform Resource Locator)?

Do your clients access the same statistical products on a regular basis and need a shortcut to get to the latest release?

There is an alternative, shorter URL that can be used to access the latest statistical releases. These URLs can be created by following the pattern below, where only the catalogue number will need to be changed to access different products.

www.abs.gov.au/ausstats/abs@.nsf/mf/xxxx.y (where xxxx.y is the ABS catalogue number)

Example of a shortened URL:

<https://www.abs.gov.au/ausstats/abs@.nsf/mf/3101.0>

Note: This shortened URL will always access the latest release of the product, and will not work for previous releases. Previous releases can easily be accessed via the "Past and Future Releases" tab once you have accessed the latest release.

A new Help document, outlining this process in more detail, has been released to our web site, see: **[Help: Use a shorter URL to access statistics.](#)**

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Forthcoming releases

Housing and Infrastructure in Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Communities,

Australia (cat. no. 4710.0) To be released 29 March 2007.

This release provides summary results from the 2006 Community Housing and Infrastructure Needs Survey (CHINS). It includes a wide range of topics, including details of current housing stock, management practices and financial arrangements of Indigenous organisations that provide housing to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people; and details of housing and related infrastructure. Also details other facilities available in discrete Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities such as transport, communication, education, sport and health services.

The Health and Wellbeing of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Women: A snapshot (cat. no. 4722.0.55.001) To be released 10 April 2007.

This snapshot presents an overview of the health and wellbeing of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander women. Information for this article is drawn from the 2004-05 National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Survey, and a range of other relevant ABS collections. Topics include health status, long-term health conditions, mortality, health risk factors, exposure to violence, social and emotional wellbeing, health-related actions and health screening and contraception.

Hint: For more information on Indigenous statistics, visit the Indigenous theme page

Characteristics of Small Business, Australia (cat. no. 8127.0) To be released 20 April 2007.

Contains details of the June 2005 supplementary survey of households looking at the characteristics of small business operators and their businesses. Provides data on age, sex, ethnicity and hours worked as well as the length of operation of the business, number of operators per business and the use of computers and the Internet by small businesses. Where data are available, comparisons are drawn with previous survey results. Businesses based at home are also examined.

These titles are a selection of what the ABS is currently releasing this quarter. They are available free on the ABS web site. Keep up to date by subscribing to the free ABS Email Notification Service.

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Public Libraries



PUBLIC LIBRARIES

Local Government & ABS Newsletter highlights

Local Government and ABS is a quarterly newsletter created by the Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) aimed at helping the Local Government Sector use statistics to assist with planning and other community servicing decisions. This is a free newsletter and we encourage you to forward it to others and post it on your bulletin board. This particularly issue includes details about the new Australian Standard Geographical Classification (ASGC). The ASGC has been highlighted as one of the most useful sources when local governments are planning, developing and delivering services within their areas.

To subscribe: send an email to Jeff Ots with 'subscribe Local Government and ABS' in the subject line.

Training news

What an opportunity - Networking over the ABS web site!

Libraries surrounding the Geraldton region of Western Australian shared an ABS awareness and web site training session. Margaret Garner, Western Australia's LEP Consultant, visited Geraldton in regional WA at the Conference for Regional Libraries and provided an ABS information session for our rural Australian communities. Librarians from surrounding areas including Badgingarra, Three Springs and Wiluna met to discuss their experiences and keep up to date with new developments. Vicki Carlyon (State Library of WA) also attended from Perth to provide training and to catch up. It was a great day! Fantastic to meet these women who provide such valuable service to their clients in remote and rural communities. There was overall appreciation and approval of the ABS web site and applause for the Free Statistics on the Web initiative. A big thank you to Andrea for arranging the day.



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New and forthcoming releases

Attendance at Selected Cultural Venues and Events, Australia 2005-06 (ABS cat. no. 4114.0). Released 25 January 2007.

With an attendance rate of 34% of people aged 15 years and over (5,454,500 people), national, state and local libraries were the third most attended cultural venue or event in 2006-06. Almost two-thirds (65%) of those who had visited a library during the 12-month period had visited more than 6 times during that period, including 25% who had visited more than 20 times. Good work!

General Social Survey: Summary Results, Australia 2006 (cat. no. 4159.0) To be released 20 April 2007.

The General Social Survey brings together a wide range of information to enable it to be linked across areas of social concern. Topics include health, housing, education, work, income, financial stress, broad assets and liabilities, transport, social capital, voluntary work, family and community, and crime. The GSS is a rich source of data for analysis of the wellbeing of Australians.

Do you have an interest in Children and Youth issues? Try the National Children and Youth Newsletter (cat. no. 4105.0).

The March 2007 issue includes:

- Release of the Children and Youth Information Development Plan
- Update on the Children and Youth Portal planned for the National Data Network
- Children's Participation in Cultural and Leisure Activities

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Education Libraries

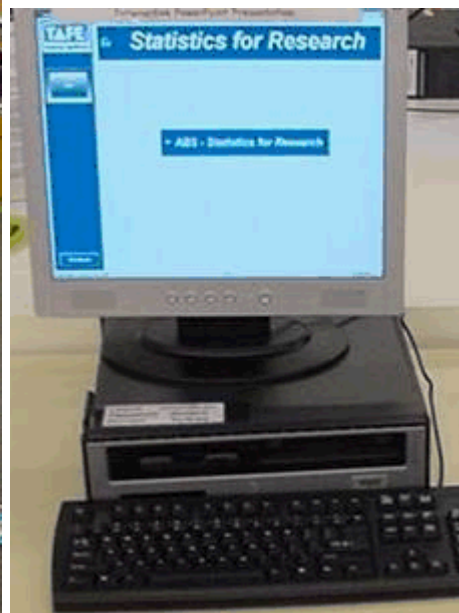


EDUCATION LIBRARIES

Training news

Ultimo TAFE Library spreads the ABS web site access word...

To encourage students to use the ABS web site, Ultimo TAFE Library promoted ABS information with a display and an interactive PowerPoint presentation. Karen Kaplinski, Customer Services Librarian says that the display was extremely successful, with a lot of students and staff showing an increased awareness of and interest in the ABS as a result. "When the display was up we had many students come and ask us about ABS publications and the web site. The display certainly increased awareness of ABS." Karen also said that many people hadn't previously been aware of the large number of subject areas for which the ABS produced statistics. It was so successful that they want to do it again next year, during the beginning of the first term when the library is at its busiest.



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New and Forthcoming releases

Tourism

Tourism Marketing Expenditure 2005-06 (cat. no. 8691.0) released 26 February 2007. This publication contains information on the amount spent by Australian private sector tourism-related businesses on marketing Australian tourism to domestic and overseas travellers.

Regional statistics

Regional Wage and Salary Earner Statistics, Australia, 2003-04 (cat. no. 5673.0.55.001) released 9 March 2007.

Which regions and occupations have the highest average wage and salary incomes? This release presents data on the characteristics of wage and salary earners in Statistical Local Areas (SLAs), and shows that employees in mining and inner metropolitan areas generally had the highest average wage and salary incomes in Australia in 2003-04. These data have been compiled from the Australian Taxation Office's (ATO) Individual Income Tax Return Database.

Business

Counts of Australian Businesses, including Entries and Exits (cat. no. 8165.0) released 26 February. This release harmonises two discontinued releases on business counts (8161.0) and entries and exits (8160.0). The scope of this release only includes businesses which are actively trading in goods or services, so the data is now much more relevant to the needs of all key users. Detailed counts are presented by industry, state and territory, type of legal organisation, sector and employment size.

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About this Release

The ABS News for Libraries Newsletter is produced by the Information Skills Program and distributed to libraries in the public, education and government sectors. The newsletter keep them up to date on the news and items of interest to the library community, including web site developments, training and publications of relevance, and to promote ABS products and services.